Court Contact In Kohn Case Denied by Grey

5-1-68

The president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans, Dr. J. D. Grey, has denied that he has ever secretly contacted a justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Dr. Grey also denied ever "mentioning or discussing" the crime commission with any Supreme Court justice.

His statement late yesterday was made in response to an announcement by the district attorney's office yesterday that a subpena had been issued to Dr. Grey to appear before Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison Friday at 11 a. m.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT alleged that Dr. Grey "secretly contacted on several occasions a justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, while that court was in the process of deliberating a contempt citation relative to Aaron M. Kohn," managing director of the MCC.

Dr. Grey said he had not yet received the subpena late yesterday. He called it "part of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's continuing program of harassment of the Metropolitan Crime Commission and other people who oppose him."

The Louisiana Supreme Court reversed a contempt of court ruling against Kohn on Monday. He had been sentenced last December by Criminal District Court Judge Matthew S. Braniff, to spend a night in jail for refusing to tell the Orleans Parish Grand Jury names of informants.

THE DISTRICT attorney's announcement yesterday said that since Dr. Grey, as pres-

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ident of the MCC, "necessarily knew that a decision was pending concerning his managing director, this office intends to learn the purpose of his clandestine efforts to contact the Supreme Court and the matters brought up by him during his visits."

The announcement added that since no justice sought out Dr. Grey, "this inquiry should not be considered necessarily as a reflection on the Supreme Court."

GREY SAID that he had served on the Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice with Justice Joe W. Sanders, a member of the Supreme Court.

"But we always met in the presence of others," Dr. Grey said.

"I deny absolutely ever mentioning or discussing the crime commission with any justice of the Supreme Court. And I resent the implication that any justice could be influenced in such a matter," the Baptist minister said.